

**Law Enforcement Division**  
**Bi-Weekly Field Report**  
**10/19/09 – 11/1/09**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Mark Leadman worked waterfowl hunters near Lake LeVassuer and watched a group shooting at ducks after the legal hours. When contacted at the launch, they were short a life jacket, had an expired boat registration, and were short on licenses. A ticket was issued.

CO Grant Emery observed the driver of a truck hop out of the vehicle with a loaded shotgun and shoot a grouse off the shoulder of the roadway. Enforcement action was taken for the loaded gun in a motor vehicle.

CO Grant Emery stopped an ORV operator for riding double along a forest road. A check of the individuals found them in possession of loaded firearms, operating an unregistered ORV and failure to wear hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon contacted individuals at a bow hunting camp set up on state land. Numerous state land use violations were encountered and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund contacted a hunter regarding an overlimit of bait at his bow stand. The subject was ticketed two years earlier for the same violation. After receiving another ticket for the bait violation, the subject stated he would follow the two gallon bait restrictions in the future.

CO Dave Painter contacted several bow hunters who had set up camp on state land. While talking with the subjects, it was clear to CO Painter that their hunting stories were not adding up. Further investigation revealed a spike horn buck that was taken while trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman worked a complaint involving a subject shooting turkeys out of the window of a residence within the safety zone of his neighbor. When interviewed by CO Leadman, the subject denied the incident occurred until his wife revealed he shot two of the turkeys, which led to a full confession. Enforcement action was taken for several violations, including seizure of the subject's shotgun. In addition, the subject confessed to taking a buck out of the same window at night two years ago.

CO Dave Painter contacted bow hunters at a camp on public land. Numerous violations were encountered, including illegal tree stands, overlimit of bait and driving around gates to access their stands. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho responded to a complaint of illegal tree stands and overlimit of bait related to a specific camp. Several illegal tree stands and large bait piles were located. When contacted, the camp members stated they had been hunting in the area for years and had never been contacted by a conservation officer. Enforcement action was taken on numerous violations.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a trapper who had just set out some traps. A check of the traps found them to be untagged. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Gerald Thayer contacted two individuals in a vehicle that was parked in a suspicious Mackinac County location well after dark. CO Thayer retrieved identification from the female passenger while the male passenger had no ID. The male passenger purposely gave CO Thayer a fictitious name. A Michigan State Police (MSP) detective who was in the area assisted CO Thayer. The individual was released due to no violations present. CO Thayer and the detective did some quick research revealing the male suspect's identity showing multiple warrants for the individual. CO Thayer put a BOL out for the vehicle which was southbound below the Mackinac Bridge by this time. Local law enforcement found the vehicle and pulled them over. A police drug dog was walked around the car and immediately hit on the trunk. The vehicle was searched and marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamines were found. The subject was arrested and taken into custody.

COs Kellie Nightlinger, Derek Miller, and Mike Hammill worked a group patrol in Luce and Mackinac Counties. CO Nightlinger and CO Miller contacted a group of hunters operating their ORVs across state land. Tickets were written for operating in a prohibited area and verbal warnings were given for excessive bait.

CO Kellie Nightlinger was the first on scene to a rollover accident on US 2. CO Nightlinger performed CPR until the ambulance and other law enforcement officials arrived.

COs Gerald Thayer and Kevin Postma responded to a capsized vessel near Munuscong Bay, along with the Sheriff's Department and US Coast Guard. Three waterfowl hunters were recovered and taken to the hospital, where they were treated for hypothermia and later released.

COs Gerald Thayer and Kevin Postma assisted Wildlife Division with the release of two separate wolves that had been accidentally caught by people trapping for coyotes. The wolves were released without incident.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon received a complaint of overlimits of bluebills on Autrain Basin. He checked the location and found that the duck hunters were in possession of buffleheads and were not overlimit.

### **DISTRICT 3**

Area COs have continued to work area streams for salmon fishing activity. COs Eric Bottorff and Mike Feagan both issued tickets for retaining foul-hooked fish. CO Bottorff reports that compliance has been much better this year regarding the retention of foul-hooked salmon at the Cheboygan Dam. He has seen several fish released during covert surveillance.

COs Matt Theunick and Mike Feagan responded to a complaint of a black bear caught in a coyote trap. The COs responded to find a 100 pound bear in a leg-hold trap. With the aid of Cheboygan County Animal Control, the bear was tranquilized and released unharmed.

CO Matt Theunick was traveling through downtown Indian River when his patrol vehicle was struck by a vehicle operated by an intoxicated driver. CO Theunick observed the vehicle leave a business, cross the southbound lane, and enter the northbound lane, traveling south. CO Theunick moved his vehicle to the shoulder and came to a complete stop, but the driver continued to move across both lanes of traffic and strike the front of CO Theunick's patrol vehicle. Local police arrested the intoxicated female.

While investigating an illegal deer bait complaint, CO Mike Feagan contacted a woman bow hunting over the bait. She stated she was not responsible for the bait, but her husband had put it out. She was also hunting without a current license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Stowe responded to a complaint from a small game hunter who had discovered the carcass of a poached elk while hunting in the Pigeon River Country. CO Stowe located the scene and found a bull elk carcass with the antlers and hindquarters removed. The investigation continues.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County observed an unattended fire in a pit she had been called to last spring by the fire department. Closer investigation revealed carpet, a stool, cushions, a tent, household trash, particle board, and other construction materials were being burned. CO Erratt ticketed the individual for burning without a permit and warned him for illegal disposal of solid waste and an unattended fire. He was the same individual she ticketed in the spring for the same violations.

COs Steve Speigl and Mike Hearn checked duck hunters on Lake Skegemog. One group of hunters showed the COs their "gadwalls". The ducks were not gadwalls. One hunter was ticketed for shooting an overlimit of pintails.

CO Andrea Albert received a RAP complaint of subjects snagging on the Elk River in Antrim County. She responded and witnessed the two subjects snag and keep two salmon. Tickets were issued.

CO Joe Molnar observed an angler fishing the Thunder Bay River in Alpena and observed that the rig he was using had a hook tied directly to the line and above the sinker. Upon contacting the angler, he could not produce his fishing license. The angler stated he did not know that the rig was illegal and other COs had checked him but did not say anything. CO Molnar checked with Lansing and found that the angler had five previous arrests for using illegal fishing gear. CO Molnar questioned the angler again who admitted he knew the rig was illegal and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew investigated a complaint of an operator of a vehicle attempting to kill a wild turkey with his vehicle by swerving into the ditch, but the turkey escaped. While in the area, CO DePew observed a vehicle matching the description fail to stop at a stop sign and upon stopping the vehicle, the operator could not produce a driver's license. The driver was suspended, and upon questioning admitted to swerving off the road but said he was trying to show his son the turkey. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster worked a baiting complaint with COs Warren MacNeill and Brian Engelhard on a large private tract of land just into Alcona County. CO Webster found a hunter in a cedar swamp hunting over corn, carrots and beets. The hunter stated someone must have put the bait out on his property, setting him up. CO Webster saw that the hunter was using a crossbow, which was another violation, since he didn't meet the age requirement. A ticket was issued for the baiting violation, making it his second offense.

CO Mark DePew heard rumors that a subject had recently taken a deer with a firearm. CO DePew worked the area and located the subject vehicle which was stopped for a traffic violation. CO DePew also located open intoxicants in the vehicle. After questioning, the driver admitted to helping a friend shoot a deer a couple of weeks ago. CO DePew continued to follow up on the information he had heard and talked with the second subject who denied everything at first but then implicated the first subject on another gunshot deer. After further investigation, CO DePew seized parts of two deer and two rifles used to take the deer. Both subjects confessed and were charged with possessing an illegal deer.

CO Bill Webster stopped at a camp on state land and found where coniferous trees had their boughs recently cut. A pumpkin was also conveniently located near camp. The camp owner was contacted later and found to be in possession of a bow. No camp card had been filled out and upon filing the camper through a LEIN check it was learned a warrant was out for his arrest. The camper was issued a ticket for not posting his camp card and was lodged at the county jail.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

COs Brian Lebel and Michael Bomay, Mecosta County, revisited several bait piles that were previously unattended and found two subjects who were now hunting over the baits. The COs had noted a gut pile near the baits on a previous visit and when questioning the hunters, one subject admitted to shooting a small buck earlier in the

season. When the COs checked for licenses, the subject who had admitted killing the deer still had both unused combination licenses in his pocket. The COs followed up on the information and enforcement action was taken addressing the bait and tagging violations.

CO Brian Lebel was called by a state trooper to assist on a traffic stop. The trooper had observed the head of a buck in the back of the truck, and upon questioning, the subject was vague in his answers, but stated he had shot it. The trooper requested CO Lebel come to the scene to further check the situation. Upon arrival, CO Lebel and the trooper interviewed the subject who, after some time, and many different stories, admitted to shooting the deer without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel was patrolling a parcel of private utility company property closed to all hunting when he located a subject walking in the woods with a bow. CO Lebel contacted the subject who was apologetic and stated he had no idea the piece was private. The subject told CO Lebel there were more people hunting with him, but they were at a different location on the public land. When CO Lebel walked away from the subject he heard him contact the rest of the party by radio advising the DNR had caught him, and that he had sent the CO in the wrong direction to find them. The subject went on to tell his friends to stay put because "the DNR has no idea you guys are in here with me." CO Lebel recontacted the subject and ordered the rest of the group out of the private property and enforcement action was taken for the trespass.

CO Troy VanGelderren, Oceana County, responded to a complaint where a hunter was possibly hunting at night over a bait pile. CO VanGelderren drove to the location and shined his light into a tree stand and found a subject hunting with a crossbow with night vision, over a bait pile. The subject was also ineligible to secure a crossbow permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Bomay, Mecosta County, contacted a bow hunter and his son while afield. When CO Bomay asked the subject for a license, the subject replied that he wasn't hunting, and looked down at his son who seemed puzzled by the situation. It seems that his conscience immediately got the best of him because he changed his story and admitted that he had been hunting, and that he didn't have a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Bomay located a suspicious vehicle parked on public land while on an evening patrol. Upon checking the vehicle, it was discovered that the four subjects were using controlled substances and in possession of a large amount of marijuana and other drug paraphernalia. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells, Newaygo County, responded to a complaint of an intoxicated hunter who had assaulted his neighbor. CO Wells went to the hunting location and found the subject coming out of the woods with a loaded crossbow after hours and also found that he was intoxicated. Enforcement action was taken, and the subject lodged.

COs Mike Wells, Brian Lebel, and Jeff Ginn assisted in the search for a 76 year old male with Alzheimer's who had wandered away from home. The subject has still not been located.

CO Sam Koscinski responded to a complaint of dumped deer carcasses in Manistee County, and found two, one with a 2009 antlerless permit still on it. CO Koscinski and CO Carla Soper investigated the incident and found that the subject had also taken a buck. When they checked the tag on the buck, it had been tagged with a military license from another individual. It seems the subject borrowed a tag from a friend. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carla Soper, Manistee County, responded to a complaint of hunter harassment where an individual had been consistently interfering with hunters on a section of state owned land. As CO Soper arrived, she found the subject leaving the state land and stopped his vehicle. The subject had a loaded .22 in his truck and had no licenses. CO Soper was able to obtain warrants for the hunter harassment and the subject was arrested for the offenses.

COs Jeff Ginn and Mike Wells, Newaygo County, responded to a 911 call of an illegal deer at a residence. The COs investigated and found a deer with a Newaygo County antlerless tag affixed to it. When questioned, the subject advised he had taken it from a relative's house in Newaygo County. The COs went to where the subject claimed to have killed the deer and found no evidence of a kill. When they contacted the subject with this information, he admitted that he had killed it in Manistee County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn, Newaygo County, was on foot checking a deer baiting complaint when he heard shooting coming from a local marsh. He decided to check the shots, as it was already past legal waterfowl shooting hours. When he arrived, he located the hunters and found them in possession of an overlimit of hen mallards and also noted them shooting 38 minutes after hours had closed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn, Newaygo County, was checking a bait complaint when he found a subject hunting over it without a deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jim Espinoza responded to a complaint at Ludington State Park in Mason County of family members snagging fish near the dam. CO Espinoza contacted the group after watching one of them illegally snag a fish and put it on a stringer. The stringer had a total of seven fish, all of which were illegally taken.

CO Jim Espinoza contacted a subject at Ludington State Park in Mason County after receiving a complaint that the person was illegally hooking fish, taking the eggs from the females and then releasing them. The subject was observed by CO Espinoza and ticketed.

CO Angela Greenway was working a shining patrol in conjunction with a Lake County Sheriff's Deputy when they caught up with a shiner who was drinking alcohol. The driver was determined to be driving while intoxicated.

After checking a location baited with sugar beets in Mason County several times, CO Brian Brosky walked in and found the subject in his tree stand. He had just dumped several five gallon buckets of corn to supplement his sugar beet pile. The subject was hunting in a food plot and complained that he could not get a shot before dark without the additional bait.

An alert Cadillac police officer observed suspicious behavior during a midnight shift traffic stop and called for backup from Wexford County CO Sam Koscinski. After a lengthy interview and search, CO Koscinski arrested the subject with an illegal deer that was killed with .22 caliber rifle while using a spotlight. Additional interviews resulted in the seizure of an illegally killed fox and information that led to arrests for multiple breaking and entering incidents. It was also noted that the subjects had multiple prior DNR poaching convictions to go along with other criminal histories.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Matt Liestenfeltz contacted a raccoon hunter late one night. When the hunter exited the vehicle, CO Liestenfeltz observed an uncased pistol between the driver seat and the console. When the CO asked to see his hunting license, the subject reached into the vehicle for the license and shut the door. The subject had no concealed pistol license to possess the uncased pistol, the firearm was loaded, and the subject was not licensed to hunt raccoon. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson observed a vehicle parked alongside the road and as he approached he saw a subject near a ditch in a wooded area. He contacted the trapper who was placing a set. A check of the trap revealed no identification tag on it and no ID tags on the traps at the vehicle.

CO Chris Bowen received information of a subject who had taken two turkeys out of season. CO Bowen contacted the subject at his residence as he was cooking one of the birds he had shot. The subject admitted to shooting two turkeys out the back door with a .22 long gun.

CO Chuck McPherson observed a truck and boat trailer parked at a road end 30 minutes after the close of waterfowl hunting hours. CO McPherson located two hunters, one walking their boat along the shore line and the second walking behind the boat. As CO McPherson contacted the hunters, 40 minutes past shooting hours, he observed the subject walking behind the boat unload shotgun shells from his firearm, and the hunter pulling the boat reach in the boat, grab his shotgun and attempt to unload shells from his shotgun before being told to stop.

CO Chris Bowen received information of several deer hanging in a shed. CO Bowen went to the location and contacted each owner of sheds in the property owners association. CO Bowen finally contacted a subject who showed the CO the contents of his shed, which turned out to be four illegal deer. The subject admitted he had taken the deer with a firearm while shining.

CO Bobbi Lively contacted two juvenile hunters walking along a road. They seemed upset and explained that they had been small game hunting and got lost. It was dark and they had been walking for five hours and were unable to find their camp. CO Lively located the camp and transported the juveniles back where their father and grandfather were located. The adults had spent three hours looking for the juveniles. One youth was not licensed for small game hunting and the adults had allowed them to go off hunting without adult supervision.

CO Chris Bowen was called out at 1:30 a.m. by deputies who had stopped a drunk driver and found an uncased rifle in the car along with a deer. When CO Bowen arrived he found the rifle to be loaded and the deer had been shot with a firearm. Both subjects were under the influence of alcohol.

CO Chris Bowen was patrolling a remote area of state land late at night and observed a vehicle driving very slowly and turning down various two tracks. The vehicle had no brake lights. When CO Bowen stopped the vehicle he found a loaded rifle and the driver and passenger were under the influence of alcohol.

CO Bobbi Lively patrolled with a US Forest Service (USFS) law enforcement officer and checked a travel trailer left on public land over the summer. The camp had illegal ORV trails leading to illegal blinds that had been baited for deer. The officers contacted two subjects hunting at the blinds over the bait, who admitted to leaving the trailer out all summer and making the ORV trails.

CO Brian Olsen assisted local police and was the first on scene of an accidental shooting. CO Olsen rendered first aid and secured the scene for other responding agencies.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood came upon a car that had hit a deer and smashed the windshield. They recognized the car as matching a vehicle from a previous complaint where two deer had been shot with a rifle. Also, they were within just a few miles of the original complaint. Further checking revealed spent rifle rounds on the driver side floor, a spotlight on the passenger floor, and the 30-30 rifle in the trunk. The COs questioned the driver and he confessed to shining and shooting the two deer from the original complaint and led the COs to where the carcasses and processed venison were stored. He also confessed to unloading the rifle and putting it in the trunk after hitting the deer with the car. The investigation led to two additional subjects and the two gunshot deer. Enforcement action was taken.



CO Joel Lundberg stopped a car for shining. As he approached the car, the driver was unloading a 9mm handgun. The driver confessed to attempting to shoot a deer using the light and handgun and was lodged in the county jail.

CO Joel Lundberg stopped a car for shining at 2:00 a.m. Inside the car was a loaded .22 magnum rifle and two subjects trying to find a deer. Tickets were issued.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood checked a hunter with blood and deer hair on his vehicle. The subject still had his hunting licenses. Further investigation revealed that the subject had shot two deer and not tagged either of them and was continuing to hunt.

CO Steve Lockwood investigated a litter complaint from a hunter who had found a pile of garbage with a name in it. CO Lockwood tracked the name to a house that had recently been repossessed. The real estate agency that took possession of the house had hired a subject to clean out the debris. An interview of that person produced a confession to dumping the litter.

CO Jason McCullough found a deer at a taxidermist that was shot in Missouri and had a Michigan youth tag on it. A follow up interview with the subject produced a written confession. The deer was illegally killed in Missouri by a subject whose hunting licenses are already revoked in Michigan through 2011. CO McCullough is working with Missouri authorities and local charges are being filed.

CO Warren MacNeill assisted local deputies with a traffic stop on a car whose three occupants had five loaded guns in the passenger compartment. All three subjects were intoxicated and were carrying the guns under CPL licenses. Information was given that led the COs to believe they were road hunting. All three subjects were arrested on various charges.

CO Warren MacNeill was following up on a bait complaint at a residence which led to an untagged deer hanging in the garage.

CO Brian Engelhard contacted campers at a site that had empty sugar beet bags lying on the ground. CO Engelhard recognized the vehicle and subject from the gas station the day before and remembered that the subject was buying sugar beets. An interview led the subject to confess to CO Engelhard and showed him where he had placed the bait. A ticket was issued.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Holly Pennoni investigated a complaint of an illegal bait pile and contacted the hunter as he was coming out of the woods. The bow hunter denied placing bait and using screw in tree steps. CO Pennoni issued a ticket for hunting without a license and is seeking warrants for the other violations.

CO Holly Pennoni received a complaint of a hunter who shot a five point and a four point antlered deer and tagged both with his combination deer license. Neither one of the deer had four points or more on one side. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Scott Brown and Robert Hobkirk investigated a report of a subject bringing whole elk carcasses into the state of Michigan from Colorado. It was found that the elk were captive cervids from an enclosure in Colorado.

While working a shining patrol, CO Robert Hobkirk responded to a report of loud campers at the Port Crescent State Park. CO Hobkirk found two intoxicated males around a fire playing loud music. The campers were given the option of being quiet or leaving the park. They chose to quiet down. This happened to be one of the Harvest Festival weekends for the park and most of the campers were there with their young children. A warning was given to the campers.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a complaint of a deer that was possibly shot with a firearm located at a camp in Huron County. Upon arrival at the deer camp, two deer carcasses were visible hanging inside a pole barn. Both deer were untagged and one subject could not locate a legal kill tag for the deer he claimed to be his. The other subject had partially validated his tag but had pocketed it so that he could continue to hunt. Tickets were issued to both subjects. The deer had been shot with a bow and arrow.

COs Scott Brown and Robert Hobkirk were preparing to patrol Saginaw Bay in bad weather when an 18 foot boat returned to the launch filled nearly to the top with water. The two occupants stated that they had gotten swamped and that their buddy was still out in a layout boat. The COs headed out from the launch in three foot waves in an area that is normally calm and protected by islands. Officers Brown and Hobkirk spotted the subject waving his arms, but the layout boat had sunk. When the COs reached the subject and pulled him into their boat, he collapsed exhausted onto the bottom of their boat. He was grateful to be out of the water, claiming that the cold water was affecting his ability to move.

While patrolling Rush Lake by kayak checking waterfowl hunters, CO Robert Hobkirk observed two hunters chase down an injured duck and shoot the bird from the moving vessel. The shooter was contacted and enforcement action was taken.

While on a waterfowl patrol near Sebewaing, CO Robert Hobkirk contacted a group of hunters, one who was a resident of Florida. The subject immediately produced his DNR sportcard and his federal stamp, but claimed he couldn't find his small game or his state waterfowl license. A quick computer check showed that he had not purchased either. As CO Hobkirk wrote the ticket and collected bond, the subject miraculously found his small game and waterfowl licenses. A closer inspection showed that the subject had falsified information and obtained a second DNR sportcard and had purchased the license as if he were a Michigan resident. Enforcement action was taken for the non resident purchasing resident licenses.

Sgt. Tony Soave organized a group patrol for waterfowl enforcement at the Fish Point Managed State Game Area involving officers from Bay, Tuscola, Huron, and Sanilac Counties. COs Jason Smith and Seth Rhodea issued tickets for overlimits of mallards and hunting from the State Game area dike.

Sgt. Tony Soave received a RAP complaint where a neighbor heard gunshots early in the morning, rode his ATV to his property line and found an eight point buck believed to be gunshot. Upon locating the blood trail and following it to a residence and locating the deer, Sgt. Soave determined it was legally tagged and shot with a bow and arrow. The hunter shot the deer, heard his neighbor's ATV start up and thought he was attempting to steal it and quickly retrieved it with his own ATV. The shots heard were from waterfowl hunters on the adjoining property.

CO Joshua Wright caught up with an individual who had his hunting privileges revoked until December, 2009. When CO Wright caught up with the bow hunter, he was sitting in his tree stand with a pile of bait. Enforcement action was taken.

While working Lexington Harbor after a fresh plant of brown trout, CO Jason Smith observed two groups of anglers catch several fish and stash them in the weeds nearby. Upon leaving, CO Smith contacted them and found both to be in possession of an overlimit of brown trout. Tickets were issued for the violation.

CO Jason Smith received a complaint of recreational trespass at a local gravel pit. Upon checking the area, a bow hunter was located and was ticketed for the trespass violation.

While working a group waterfowl patrol at Fish Point, CO Seth Rhodea contacted hunters in a corn field who were suspected of shooting after hours. One hunter had shot two mallards over his limit and another had two hen mallards in his possession. Both hunters were ticketed for the overlimits and all illegal ducks were seized from the group.

While checking several ponds for waterfowl hunters, CO Seth Rhodea observed three waterfowl hunters continue to hunt after shooting time had ended. The CO observed the group shoot as late as 18 minutes after legal hours. Upon contact with the hunters they were also found to be possession of lead shot and one failed to have any of his licenses with him. Enforcement action was taken on the violations and two ducks that were shot after hours were seized.

While working a late night patrol targeting illegal fishing activities at the Lexington Harbor, COs Jason Smith and Seth Rhodea observed an individual fishing who would periodically drive his vehicle alongside landscape rocks that were in the parking lot at the state boat launch and load them into his vehicle. Upon contacting the angler at about 3:00 a.m. the COs found the entire back seat of his vehicle full of rocks that he had stolen. The angler told the COs he liked to take a rock every time he went fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

While following up on a RAP complaint of suspicious shots fired at dusk, CO Larn Strawn located three men working in a dark pole barn. The CO watched the men through an open doorway as they processed a freshly killed deer. The men quickly quartered the deer and stuffed the cape and carcass into a black plastic bag. After loading the carcass into the back of a truck, the men discussed where to dispose of the deer and what their cover story should be if they were to get caught. After agreeing on a cover story the men started to get into the truck. At this time the CO approached the passenger side of the truck. Just as one of the men was reaching to close the door, the CO announced his presence. The startled poachers all admitted that the deer was shot with a rifle during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jay Person was called to a remote area in central Midland County for a lost hunter. With the aid of Midland County 911 and their GPS tracking program, they were able to pull up the caller's location on an aerial map. CO Person used the emergency lights and siren from his patrol truck to give the hunter a direction to walk. The hunter had been walking lost for three hours.

COs Nick Atkin and Chad Foerster contacted three individuals coming in from hunting on state land. During contact the COs could smell the odor of marijuana in the area of the hunters. The COs questioned the group, who confessed and produced the marijuana. During the investigation that followed, multiple violations were discovered, including a baiting violation, use of screw in tree steps, and no name or address on tree stands. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin responded to an illegal dumping complaint. The illegal dump was located and during the interviews that followed, two subjects on the property were found to have valid warrants for their arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster received a RAP complaint about a recreational trespass with a possible deer being taken. The CO arrived and found evidence supporting the complaint but the subject had left the area. The CO collected additional information and contacted CO Dan Lee for assistance in tracking down the individual. CO Lee located the subject three counties away and brought him back to the scene where a full confession was received supporting the illegal deer allegation. The deer was located and seized. The subject was lodged at the Arenac County jail and numerous charges are pending for the hunting violations and the illegal deer. There was also a large amount of marijuana found on scene that appeared to have been grown and processed on site. Numerous firearms were also seized, one of which was stolen.

## **DISTRICT 7**

COs Andy Bauer and Zach Doss patrolled a section of a closed stream near Bangor. As they approached, the COs observed a juvenile being used as a look out. Upon seeing the COs the juvenile ran down to the river with the COs following. The juvenile led COs straight to where three subjects were fishing on the closed stream. Upon investigating, the COs observed illegal gear being used, fishing closed waters,

possession of fish illegally taken (snagged), and one of the subjects did not have a fishing license.

While patrolling Farmers Creek in Berrien County, CO Andy Bauer observed a subject teaching his younger sister how to fish. Problem was, they were trespassing on a closed stream and fishing with illegal gear.

COs Mike McGee and Jeff Robinette followed up with investigations on complaints of subjects purchasing licenses while revoked and/or ineligible. The COs contacted and interviewed individuals who admitted to buying licenses even though they were not eligible.

COs Steve Mooney, Andy Bauer and Zach Doss responded to a complaint of subjects shooting at deer at night with a .22. Upon arrival, CO Mooney observed that lawful bow hunters had contacted one of the subjects who was trespassing in a field searching for a deer. The investigation revealed the subject had shot three times from a motor vehicle with a .22 at an antlerless deer. In the vehicle at the time of the shooting were two adult males, their wives and two kids ages 14 and 5. After shooting the deer, both adult males trespassed while looking for the deer as one of the women drove the vehicle away from the scene. As COs arrived, one of the subjects fled while the other was contacted. The subject who fled turned himself in the next day; he had walked 13 miles home that night before contacting COs the next morning. The subject who shot was arrested and convicted of the same violation back in 2005 by CO Bauer. Action was taken.

While patrolling northern Van Buren County, COs Andy Bauer and Zach Doss observed a vehicle shining at 12:30 a.m. The driver was using the vehicle's headlights to shine fields and disregarded a stop sign in the process. The occupants of the vehicle were a father and his 16 year old son.

CO Chris Holmes stopped a vehicle late at night in Kalamazoo County. During the stop CO Holmes observed a saw with blood on it in the vehicle. Questioning the occupants of the vehicle, the CO was told they had helped a friend cut up a deer. CO Holmes went to the friend's house and located an untagged deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling in Kalamazoo County CO Chris Holmes ticketed three subjects he observed hunting ducks after hours.

CO Chris Holmes has been checking area deer processors in Kalamazoo County. During his inspections, CO Holmes has located one fail to validate tag violation and another case resulted in enforcement action where the subject shot a buck at 8:00 a.m. and purchased a kill tag to use on the buck at 11:00 a.m.

CO Mike Mshar responded to a complaint of subjects hunting geese during the closed season at the Allegan Todd Farm Wildlife Area. CO Mshar contacted two subjects

leaving the field with four Canada Geese. The subjects stated they were unaware that the goose season had yet to open on the managed unit in spite of the fact that they were the only ones hunting geese, and the managed area map and regulations were in their vehicle. The subjects were ticketed for the illegal geese and issued warnings for no managed hunting permit and excessive numbers of shells for the area.

CO Patrick McManus stopped to check two bank anglers who claimed to be salmon fishing. It was determined that neither subject possessed a fishing license. CO McManus observed a bag next to the subject's equipment and asked what it contained. Neither subject responded, and CO McManus located three undersized largemouth bass in the bag. Tickets were issued for the fishing violations with one of the subjects being lodged in the Allegan County jail on an outstanding arrest warrant.

CO Patrick McManus was on patrol when he heard a radio broadcast for a BOL of a suspected drunk driver. Just as the call was being put out, the subject vehicle passed CO McManus' location. CO McManus was able to eventually stop the vehicle and contact the driver and her passenger. The CO was assisted at the scene by a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper and it was determined that the driver was severely intoxicated. The female passenger was arrested on a fugitive warrant for a previous drunk driving incident and accident causing death. The driver was determined to be three times the legal limit when tests were administered at the jail. The driver refused to take the breath test and a search warrant was obtained for her blood. The driver was too intoxicated to be held at the jail and had to be held over at a medical facility after her arrest for drunk driving.

CO Jeff Rabbers checked two subjects hunting ducks on Gun Lake with a layout boat. Neither the tender boat nor the layout boat had any personal flotation devices. One of the subjects possessed an unplugged shotgun and it was determined that his shells were toxic shot reloaded into spent steel shot shells. Tickets were issued for the marine violation and the toxic shot shells.

CO Chris Simpson responded to a trespass complaint dealing with three subjects hunting waterfowl on a flooded crop field. One of the subjects possessed several toxic shot shells and was ticketed for that offense.

CO Dave Rodgers responded to a trespass complaint where a subject placed a hunting blind, large bait pile and trail camera on private property without permission. The landowner seized the subject's trail camera and blind and provided these to CO Rodgers. On the trail camera was an official looking sticker stating, "DNR #109". When contacted, the subject who was observed on the trail camera placing bait, stated that the sticker was to keep others from messing with the camera. CO Rodgers will seek charges for recreational trespass.

CO Gerard Goulette worked a bayou off the Grand River due to several complaints concerning late waterfowl shooting. CO Goulette apprehended four subjects hunting from three separate locations after the legal shooting hours. Two subjects claimed they

were only shooting at a crippled goose 40 minutes after hours to be able to recover it. CO Goulette pointed out that the original shots that crippled the goose were fired 20 minutes after hours. One subject was also ticketed for no hunting license and lodged on an outstanding felony warrant.

CO Ivan Perez worked on complaints of late waterfowl shooting. Over 20 minutes after legal hunting hours, CO Perez apprehended two subjects who were still shooting at incoming wood ducks. Neither subject had a hunting license and one subject possessed an unplugged shotgun. Each subject received tickets for the late shooting and hunting without a license.

CO Ivan Perez and Sgt. Dave Shaw were on their way to investigate a waterfowl complaint when they passed a small creek. The COs observed subjects in the creek with long wooden poles. The COs parked out of sight of the creek and returned on foot. Four subjects were observed to be herding salmon to each other and then spearing the fish. Two subjects were ticketed for illegal take of salmon. The recent heavy rains are allowing salmon to reach sections of creeks where salmon are rarely seen.

Sgt. Dave Shaw stopped a vehicle whose occupants were shining and observed dried deer blood on the passenger's pants. When asked, the passenger stated it was from the doe deer the driver had taken with a bow on opening day. Sgt. Shaw then questioned the driver and obtained all of his unused deer tags. The driver insisted that the blood from the passenger's pants was from the doe deer he harvested. When Sgt. Shaw pointed out that he had in his hand the only deer tags issued to the driver, the subject admitted to not tagging the doe deer. Charges are pending for the tagging violation.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Kyle Bader received a BOL (be on the lookout) over his department radio for a motorcycle wanted by the local police department. As CO Bader was listening to the BOL he observed the motorcycle operating on the roadway. CO Bader stopped the operator and vehicle and turned him over to the local police agency.

COs Jeff Walker, Dan Bigger, Brad Brewer and Sgt. Troy Bahlau worked a group patrol on the Grand River to address illegal snagging activity. Numerous subjects were illegally snagging salmon and would drag the foul hooked fish out of the water in front of the COs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer and Sgt. Joe Kellam were called out at 9:30 p.m. to assist in the search for a lost hunter in the Lost Nations Game Area. The COs used their recently acquired tactical tracking skills to locate the lost hunter who was 300 yards off the trail. The lost subject was tired and weary but otherwise not injured.

While working an area known for illegal night time hunting activity, CO Jason J. Smith passed a vehicle from an earlier shining incident. CO Smith contacted the driver and

observed a loaded .22 rifle between the operator and passenger in the front seat. The operator of the vehicle stated to CO Smith "as soon as we saw you flip on us, I told my friend that we need to stop hunting at night". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince has worked numerous baiting complaints, including one where the subject stated he thought for sure baiting was legal again this year because it is sold at every corner gas station. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince received a hunter harassment complaint where a subject was accused of putting scented soap and perfume on the complainants hunting blind. CO Prince contacted the subject and located several illegal bait piles behind his residence. The subject was also wanted on a misdemeanor warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy contacted two subjects who were carrying several bags of carrots onto state land. When CO Purdy asked the subjects what the carrots were for, they responded by saying they thought it was still legal to place five gallons of bait for deer hunting. When CO Purdy located their tree stand, he noted there was much more than five gallons of carrots and apples already placed on the ground by their illegal tree stand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy assisted the Island Lake Recreation Area staff with a group of subjects who drove their vehicles into an area where motor vehicle operation is prohibited. When CO Purdy contacted the subjects who were hunting, he observed one subject trying to "hide" his shotgun. The subject stated he "forgot" to bring his hunting license with him. CO Purdy's investigation showed that the subject had not purchased a hunting license since 2007. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy received a complaint of a tree stand on state land that had no name on the stand, utilized screw-in tree steps to access the stand and shooting lanes were cut in the trees to view the illegal bait pile. CO Purdy contacted the subject hunting in the illegal stand over the illegal bait and took enforcement action.

CO Brad Brewer assisted local deputies with a shining and shooting complaint at 4:00 a.m. The complainant heard a shot and observed a truck on the side of the road and two subjects walking across a field. CO Brewer's investigation led to a loaded and uncased 12 gauge shotgun and a spent shell casing in the truck. CO Brewer interviewed the subjects and they admitted to their illegal hunting activity. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens was assisted by local deputies on an illegal hunting complaint. One subject was trespassing on private property, hunting without a license, and was in violation of his parole. The second subject was hunting in full camouflage, in a tree stand with a .22 rifle, on private property, and did not purchase a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.



CO Dan Prince received information that subjects were hunting waterfowl over bait and shooting after legal hunting hours had ended. CO Prince investigated the complaint and found bait hidden under rocks. CO Prince located a vehicle parked nearby and observed a subject shoot at geese approximately 43 minutes after legal shooting hours had ended. CO Prince contacted the 16 year old shooter and his grandfather who admitted to placing the illegal bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger received a waterfowl trespass complaint and was able to respond in a matter of minutes. After talking with the complainant, CO Bigger located the subject who was shooting geese well within the safety zone of other residences. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster responded to a baiting complaint by contacting the subject who had illegally placed the bait. When CO Webster asked the subject about the bait he stated "not sure what you are talking about since baiting is illegal". CO Webster located the large pile of corn, apples, and carrots and the subject changed his story. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

What started out as a RAP complaint for COs Mark Ennett and Jonathan Sklba about a subject shooting at deer turned into something totally different. The COs responded and found three Siberian Huskies milling around the subject's home. COs Ennett and Sklba watched as the dogs killed a kitten in the subject's yard. The subject came out of his house when the COs arrived, brandishing a handgun. The subject was distraught and stated he was going to shoot the dogs because they had just killed his kitten. The COs learned that the subject had been trying to shoot at the dogs running across his field, not at the deer. They were able to calm the subject and call animal control. COs Ennett and Sklba helped contain the animals and assisted with their removal. The COs learned that this pack of dogs was responsible for killing a chicken and two goats in the neighborhood earlier in the week.

CO Mark Ennett contacted a subject driving on the railroad tracks in Exeter Township. When asked what he was doing the subject replied he was trying to track a wounded deer for his grandson. CO Ennett then contacted the 12 year old hunter who did not have his hunting license in his possession. Further investigation revealed one half dozen ears of corn in the bean field. CO Ennett contacted the young hunter's father who came to the scene and was given verbal warnings about the incident.

CO Mark Ennett was on scene of a fatality in Ash Township that involved two separate ORVs. Two 17 year olds were on one ORV and had a loaded, uncased 10 gauge shotgun on the handlebars. A second ORV was being driven by a 16 year old who was operating in front of the 17 year olds. As the 17 year olds were maneuvering their vehicle, the 10 gauge shotgun discharged and shot the 16 year old. The investigation is ongoing.

While checking waterfowl hunters at Lavigne Road, CO Jonathan Sklba conducted a routine check and found a waterfowl hunter with an unplugged shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jonathan Sklba conducted a waterfowl patrol at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area and checked many hunters. One subject had an unsigned federal duck hunting stamp. CO Sklba had the subject sign it and issued a verbal warning.

CO Jonathan Sklba contacted numerous anglers fishing at Hoffman Park. One subject pulled out his fishing license and two sets of combination deer licenses. Noting that the subject did not understand, CO Sklba explained the licenses. CO Sklba seized the extra set of combination licenses and issued a verbal warning. Another angler fishing at the pier was in possession of three yellow perch. When asked for his fishing license, the subject stated he wasn't keeping the fish. CO Sklba again asked for the fishing license and the angler finally admitted he didn't have one. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Pointe Mouille State Game Area, CO Jonathan Sklba located a load of trash on the property. The trash consisted of vinyl siding, household mail, two five gallon pails of used oil, one gallon of paint and one full oil change pan. CO Sklba was able to obtain information from the mail on the ground and contacted a subject at his residence, who made a full confession. Enforcement action was taken.

Investigating a complaint of two subjects dumping deer carcasses, CO Dan Walzak contacted the owner of the vehicle that was seen at the location of the incident the night before. The owner denied any involvement, stating that someone else was driving his vehicle. The subject gave the CO inconsistent information about who was driving his vehicle, first stating that his mother was driving it then later stating that a friend of his was driving it. When the inconsistencies were pointed out, the vehicle owner still denied involvement but immediately offered to clean up the site, claiming to know exactly where the carcasses were. CO Walzak followed the subject back to the site to monitor the clean-up.

CO Mark Papineau and Sgt. Tom Wanless conducted an early morning marine patrol on Lake Ponemah in Genesee County. One subject in a group of waterfowl hunters did not have a state waterfowl license and was in possession of an unplugged gun. Enforcement action was taken. Several marine safety violations were also addressed.

CO Mark Papineau, while investigating illegal deer baiting complaints, found a subject who was convicted of illegal bait twice in prior years.

CO Linda Scheidler received information on a subject who trespassed and built a 10 x 10 blind on stilts on the complainant's property. The investigation continues.

CO Ken Kovach observed a group of waterfowl hunters shoot at a sandhill crane and miss. The subjects also were shooting at waterfowl well after the end of legal hunting

hours. When the CO contacted the subjects, they were also in possession of lead shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach responded to a complaint of a group of subjects who had taken a sturgeon illegally in the Algonac area. As the subjects were leaving, the vehicle was stopped. The subjects allowed CO Kovach to search the vehicle and the CO found the 55 inch sturgeon hidden in a bag underneath other gear. CO Kovach interviewed the subjects and obtained a confession. With the assistance of CO Kris Kiel, the COs spent 90 minutes reviving the fish which swam away.

Working off of a tip in Independence Township yielded two bait/feed arrests for CO Brandon Kieft. CO Kieft responded to the first house and walked to the back of the home where the subject had a lighted bait pile. While looking at the adjoining property of the neighbor, CO Kieft noted additional bait and a stand on the other neighbor's property. After CO Kieft finished with the original subject, he contacted the neighbor and dealt with the additional baiting issue. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a call to assist Waterford Police Department with a subject who had just shot a deer in a residential neighborhood. The subject had been grilling steaks in his back yard when he saw a four point buck walk by his home. The subject stopped grilling, grabbed his bow, and shot the deer from his driveway. In this residential area the furthest home away from the subject when he shot was 52 yards. The deer expired on the roadway, causing alarm from the subject's neighbors, who in turn called 911. When CO Kieft arrived, the Waterford Police Department officers had the subject in custody. As it turns out the subject was also wanted on an outstanding warrant from Oakland County. The subject first tried to deny that he had killed the deer; however, local officers found the subject's bow hidden in a couch of the subject's garage. After talking it over with the subject, CO Kieft obtained a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively responded to a complaint from Troy Police Department of a subject shooting a deer in a subdivision of the city. Originally the complaint came into the Troy Police Department as shots fired; when they arrived on scene it turned out that the subject had been shooting deer. CO Shively arrived on scene and learned that the subject was upset because the deer had been eating his garden. The subject was so mad he grabbed a .22 rifle and shot the antlerless deer, which expired on the neighbor's property. The subject then dragged the deer back onto his property. Enforcement action was taken on multiple violations.

While working shiners late night in Highland Township, CO Ben Shively encountered four ORVs operating at 9:30 p.m. CO Shively had been parked in a vacant land subdivision watching for shiners when the ORVs drove past. CO Shively was able to apprehend one of the operators, but the others fled. The subject CO Shively stopped had been ticketed five months prior by CO Shively for a similar ORV violation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel was also first on scene of a personal injury accident in Chesterfield Township. Apparently a youth lost control of his classic sports car, fishtailed and struck another vehicle. CO Kiel stayed with the youth in the vehicle until the fire department and Chesterfield Police Department arrived on scene. The fire department had to use their tools to get the door of the youth's vehicle open.

CO Mark Papineau followed up on a baiting complaint where the property owner admitted to baiting but stopped when his trail-cam showed the CO investigating the illegal bait.

While working late night shiners, CO Ken Kovach observed a slow rolling van. The CO decided to follow the vehicle. Over a distance of approximately 10 miles, a spotlight was periodically cast out into fields. A couple of times the vehicle's lights were turned off while the vehicle was stopped on a dirt road. At one time when the truck was stopped and the lights were off, CO Kovach made a traffic stop of the vehicle. A consent search revealed an uncased loaded .243 lying across the backseat. The operator did not have a valid driver's license and was arrested last November by CO John Borkovich for having an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.